

Hartlepool Port Sanitary Authority.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1904.

BY

SAMUEL BIGGART, M.D., C.M.

WEST HARTLEPOOL:

ALMA PRESS, LIMITED, Exeter Street.

Hartlepool Port Sanitary Authority.

1904-5.

CHAIRMAN—W. J. COATES.

West Hartlepool Representatives:

T. CLARKSON, Westbourne Road, West Hartlepool.
C. MACFARLANE, Hutton Avenue, West Hartlepool.
J. SUGGITT, Lower Archer Street, West Hartlepool.
J. BROWN, Grange Road, West Hartlepool.
W. J. COATES, Lynn Street, West Hartlepool.
J. C. DYER, Stockton Road, West Hartlepool.
W. PATERSON, Brougham Terrace, West Hartlepool.
T. LIDDLE, 30, Osborne Road, West Hartlepool.
H. LAMB, Lynn Street, West Hartlepool.

Hartlepool Representatives:

J. HORSLEY, Sedgewick House, Hartlepool.
J. HUNTER, High Street, Hartlepool.
J. R. BUTTERWICK, "Kirkham," Hartlepool.
W. S. MERRYWEATHER, 14, Cliff Terrace, Hartlepool.
T. W. WATSON, Gladstone Street, Hartlepool.
H. WITHY, Brantford House, West Hartlepool.

FIXED DAYS OF MEETING.

AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, WEST HARTLEPOOL.

May 19th, ... 1904	September 15th, 1904	January 19th, 1905
June 16th, ,,	October 20th, ,,	February 16th, ,,
July 21st, ,,	November 17th, ,,	March 16th, ,,
August 18th, ,,	December 15th, ,,	April 20th, ,,

EACH DAY AT 3-15 P.M.

General Purposes Committee:

J. HORSLEY,	C. MACFARLANE,	J. R. BUTTERWICK,
J. HUNTER,	J. SUGGITT,	J. C. DYER,
T. CLARKSON,	J. BROWN,	T. W. WATSON.

Officers:

Clerk—C. J. BUNTING, Solicitor, 52, Church Street, West Hartlepool.
Medical Officer—S. BIGGART, M.D., 116, Scarbro' Street, West Hartlepool.
Surveyor—J. W. BROWN, Church Square, West Hartlepool.
Inspector—O. P. MITCHELL, 10, Sea Terrace, Middleton, Hartlepool.
Assistant Inspector—R. CARTER, Pilot Master, Hartlepool.

ANNUAL REPORT.

WEST HARTLEPOOL,

February 1st, 1905.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Hartlepool
Port Sanitary Authority.*

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board and of the Durham County Council, I herewith submit to you my Annual Report of the work done at the Port, and at the Port Sanitary Hospital, during the year 1904. The Sanitary condition of the ships entering the Port, and the measures taken to abate sickness, remedy defects and abate nuisances are mentioned.

I.—HOSPITAL.

As in previous reports I have briefly reviewed the Statistics and Sanitary circumstances which have already been presented to you in the Monthly Reports.

During the year ending 31st December, 1904, 97 patients were admitted into the Port Sanitary Hospital, as compared with 185 in 1903, and 105 in 1902. Of these 97 cases there were :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	73
Small-pox	...	...	...	12
Diphtheria	...	...	...	7
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	2
and for Observation (Small-pox)				1
				<hr/>
				97

Of these 97 cases there came

		from West Hartlepool	87 patients
„	„	Hartlepool	6 „
„	„	Vessels	2 „
„	„	Union	2 „
			<hr/>
			97

7 deaths occurred during the year :—

		5 from Diphtheria
1	„	Typhoid Fever
1	„	Erysipelas
		<hr/>
		7

The Diphtheretic cases this year have been of a very malignant type. This is shewn not only in the high death rate in the Hospital, but also in the high death rate that has been experienced in private practice, as will be seen by the monthly returns of the Medical Officer of Health.

Small-pox. In every case the Small-pox has been immediately stamped out. The Hartlepoons are very fortunate in the position they hold with regard to this disease considering how other parts of the County have suffered during the year. The outer Pavillion has been kept entirely reserved for Small-pox patients and the results show it has answered the purpose very well. The whole of the buildings have been kept in good repair and have answered the purpose for which they were intended as well as similar structures could be expected to do.

II.—SHIPPING.

During the year 1904, no ship arrived in the Port with a case of Infectious Diseases on board; moreover, none of the Infectious Diseases which were reported in the Boroughs during this period appear to have originated on board a ship—

The number of vessels inspected by me during the year was 119 and there were 21 re-visits as compared with 108 inspections and 11 re-visits in 1903.

The causes of Inspection may be tabulated as follows :—

- 44 vessels reported by your Inspector or the Customs Officials as having sickness on board either on arrival or during the time they were discharging cargoes
- 57 vessels from infected or suspected ports
- 4 vessels to examine crews or passengers.
- 5 vessels at sea or outer harbour having sickness or dead bodies on board.
- 2 vessels in dry dock having sickness on board.
- 8 vessels having sanitary defects.
- 21 Re-visits.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE INTRODUCTION OF
CHOLERA AND PLAGUE.

A Monthly Circular setting forth what may be considered infected or suspicious ports, which we commenced to issue in 1903, continues to be sent to pilots and the officers of H.M. Customs and I believe the information supplied has proved useful to them. Such a scheme is in operation at Hull, London, and other ports. This method of precaution was first mooted at the Port Sanitary Conference at Hull, and it was then suggested that the Local Government Board should supply the requisite information; but for the present we have to rely upon newspaper reports for these matters. The arrangements have so far been very successful. As in former years we have endeavoured to carry out the instructions of the Local Government Board conjointly with your Committee and the Customs Officials and Shipowners with the minimum of friction.

The Monthly Reports from me and your Sanitary Inspector, both with regard to the work done at the Hospital and at the Port will have kept the Board fully informed as to what was being done from month to month during the year.

I herewith append a summary of the report of the work done during the year by your Port Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Oscar P. Mitchell.

Vessels inspected by the Port Sanitary Inspectors
from January 1st to December 31st, 1904.

British Steamships ...	...	...	...	940
British Sailing Vessels	...	...	...	375
Foreign Steamships	...	...	...	583
Foreign Sailing Vessels	...	...	...	214
(As compared with 1753 last year)				— 2112
Re-visits made to Vessels for Fumigating, to see Regulations carried out where Notices had been served, to Passengers Steamers, to Vessels from suspected ports, and to Vessels discharging perishable cargoes ...				275
Total number of Inspections ...				2387
(As compared with 2145 last year)				<hr/>

The Nationalities of the Vessels were as follows :—

British ...	...	...	...	...	1315
Swedish	...	...	...	...	314
Norwegian	...	...	...	...	154
German	...	...	...	...	106
Danish ...	...	...	...	...	69
Russian	...	...	...	...	62
Dutch ...	...	...	...	...	58
French ...	...	...	...	...	17
Spanish	...	...	...	...	7
Belgian	...	...	...	...	2
Austrian	...	...	...	...	2
Italian ...	...	...	...	...	2
Greek ...	...	...	...	...	2
Brazilian	...	...	...	...	2
					<hr/>
					2112
					<hr/>

Notices for Sanitary Defects, &c., were given :—

Dirty Forecastle and Deckhouses	...	...	54
Repairs to Leaking Forecastsles	...	...	17
Disinfected, Fumigated, and gave disinfectants for Bilges and Vessels from Infected Ports, or having sickness on Board	...	...	25
Pump out water and clean Receptacles	...	...	11
Paint and Lime out...	...	...	26
Broken Side Ports	...	...	8
Bunks to be repaired, bottom boards out	...	...	12
Choked and Dirty W.C.s	...	...	29
Dirty Forepeaks	...	...	7
Clean up Holds	...	...	8
Defective Bulkhead between W.C. and Crew Space	...	...	12
Defective Bulkhead between W.C. and Food Locker	...	...	1
Imperfectly Ventilated Forecastle	...	...	12
Paint Locker adjoining Food Locker	...	...	2
Bow Locker used for Storing Paints	...	...	1
Vermineous Forecastsles and Rat infected Ships	...	...	3
Defective Stoves	...	...	4
Poultry, Pigs, etc., alive on Deck, Dirty Houses	...	...	3
Filthy Bedding	...	...	10
Defective Flooring in Forecastsles	...	...	2
Water standing under bunks, choked scuppers, etc.	...	...	5
Insufficient Light	...	...	7
Defective Bulkhead between Cabin and Hold	...	...	1

In conclusion, I must thank the Collector of Customs and his various Officials, Master Mariners, and all the Port Officials for the manner in which they have carried out their instructions, and thereby very materially aided us by their hearty co-operation in the prevention of the importation of infectious diseases during the year.

S. BIGGART, M.D., C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health to the Port Sanitary Authority.

